

Letter from Annie M. Sullivan to Alexander Graham Bell, March 12, 1902

@ 14 Coolidge Avenue, Cambridge, March 12, 1902. Dear Dr. Bell;

I have been meaning to write to you for several weeks; but as usual we are up to our ears in work, and each day finds many tasks still unfinished; and the things we leave undone are almost sure to be the things that we should like best to do.

I suppose you have heard that Helen is writing the story of her life for the "Ladies' Home Journal." The first of the series will appear in the April number of the Magazine, and will continue through October. She is being well paid for her work, or we should not have undertaken it at this time. She received a thousand dollars for the first article, and they will pay five hundred dollars for each additional article.

At first Helen intended only to write one article; but as the work progressed, it became evident that she could do a great deal more. Then it was suggested that it might be a good plan to put it in book form after the "Journal" was through with it, adding other matter relating to her education. The idea seemed a good one, and the time propitious. We began writing to publishers for propositions, and several of the leading houses responded favorably. We have not yet decided which offer will be most advantageous; but the choice seems to lie between the Century Company and Doubleday and Page. We expect to get the book out for the Christmas trade. The "Journal" will then have advertised Helen's part of it extensively, and people, we think, will be interested in the book, which will contain, in addition to her own story, a series of her letters beginning with the first few printed words and including a few letters from distinguished persons, also an essay describing and explaining methods and principles employed in her education. This essay is to be written by Mr. John A. Macy of Cambridge, a young man who seems peculiarly adapted to do this work well, especially as he will have my advice and assistance and all the material which

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we have. He is deeply interested in the subject, and is very desirous of conferring with you about the principles underlying the education of the deaf in general. I think it would mean a great deal to him to talk with you. I also think this is one of the greatest opportunities ever offered of presenting the subject in an interesting way to people everywhere, as the book will be published simultaneously in London, Germany, France and the United States.

Now we are thinking of going to New York for the Easter holidays. Mr. Macy is to meet us there to look up material for the book. If you are in Washington the first part of the second week in April, we will go on to see you and talk over the book. We wish to dedicate it to you as an expression of our love and gratitude. The dedication will have a particular significance because of your well known interest in the education of the deaf. Let me hear from you before we go to New York, which will be on the 29th, I think.

Helen is well, and unites with me in loving remembrances to Mrs. Bell, Daisy and all who remember

Your friend, Annie M. Sullivan